**A Consumer's Guide to** 

# **Boating**Lake Tahoe



#### **Tahoe Regional Planning Agency**

Leading the cooperative effort to preserve, restore, and enhance the unique natural and human environment of the Lake Tahoe Region

Juside:

New watercraft engine requirements in effect June 1, 1999.

#### Clean Boating Practices Mean Better Water Quality

In March 1999, concerns about the water quality of Lake Tahoe resulted in the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency finalizing regulations that would restrict the use of certain marine engines in Lake Tahoe. This guide is designed to explain the phase-in of these regulations, and how you can easily identify if you can use your engine in Lake Tahoe.

In an effort to control the impacts of certain motorized watercraft engines on water quality in the Lake Tahoe Region, TRPA has adopted new rules governing the use of two-stroke engines. Studies show that carbureted two-stroke engines discharge more pollutants into the air and water compared to other engine types.

### What Engines WILL be allowed at Lake Tahoe

## Watercraft powered by the following engines will be allowed on lakes in the Tahoe Region:

- Direct fuel injection (DFI) two-stroke engines
- Two-stroke engines that meet the California Air Resources Board 2001 or the U.S. EPA 2006 emissions standard As of April 1999, only DFI two-stroke engines met this standard. This exception allows watercraft engine manufacturers to introduce new technology acceptable for use on Lake Tahoe and other lakes in the Region.
- Sterndrive/inboard engines
- · Four stroke engines

## Watrcraft powered by the following engines will be allowed on lakes in the Tahoe Region UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 2001:

- All auxiliary sailboat engines, including two-stroke engines
- Carbureted two-stroke engines 10 horsepower or less
- Electronic fuel injection (EFI) or Rotax fuel injection (RFI) two-stroke engines purchased before Janaury 27, 1999
- Any engine that meets the U.S. EPA 2001 emissions standard

## What Engines Will NO LONGER Be Allowed on all lakes in the Tahoe Region, and when?

- As of June 1, 1999:
  Carbureted two-stroke engine
  - Carbureted two-stroke engines more than 10 horsepower in which the fuel passes through the crankcase, except auxiliary sailboat engines
- After October 1, 2001:
  - Any engine that does not meet the U.S. EPA 2006 or the California Air Resources Board 2001 emissions standard, including:
    - Electronically Fuel Injected (EFI) twostroke engines
    - Rotax Fuel Injected (RFI) two-stroke engines
    - Two-stroke engines auxiliary sailboat engines
    - Two-stroke engines 10 HP or less

These new requirements will be in effect on ALL lakes within the Tahoe Region, including Tahoe, Fallen Leaf & Echo.

#### Please observe the new 600-Foot No Wake Zone

TRPA also adopted an ordinance that establishes a 600-foot no wake zone around Lake Tahoe. All watercraft must travel at 5 miles per hour or less in a zone extending from the shoreline to 600 feet from the shoreline. At 5 mph, a watercraft will travel 600 feet in just less than 90 seconds. The 600-foot no wake zone was established to minimize the noise impacts of motorized watercraft on beach users, and fish and wildlife.

For more information please call the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency at 775/588-4547

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Regulations in Lake Tahoe

- Q. Where do these regulations appy?
- A. These regulations apply on all of Lake Tahoe including Echo Lake, Cascade Lake and Fallen Leaf Lake.
- Q. How can I tell if my two-stroke engine is direct fuel injected?
- A. At this time, all engines that are direct fuel injected are labeled with either a Ficht™ or Optimax™ logo.
- Q. How can I tell if my two-stroke engine is electronically fuel injected?
- A. All engines with this feature are labeled as "electronically fuel injected" or "EFI" engines.
- Q. How can I tell if my two-stroke engine meets the EPA 2006 or CARB 2001 standard?

- A. At this time, the only two-stroke engines that meet the EPA 2006 or CARB 2001 standard are direct fuel injection. The engines are labeled with either a Ficht™ or Optimax™ logo. Recent regulations approved by the California Air Resources Board will require all new two-stroke engines that comply with the CARB 2001 standard to have a label affixed.
- Q. Can I sell my engine if it does not comply with Lake Tahoe emissions laws?
- A. Yes, these engines may still be used in other jurisdictions. Consult your local dealer about trade-in value.
- Q. What can I do to limit the environmental impacts of boating?
  - Make sure your engine is tuned for the altitude of Lake Tahoe (elevation 6225 feet).
  - Always follow the instructions contained in the owner's manual or seek the advice of your local dealer.
  - Never attempt to alter or adjust new technology outboard and Personal Watercraft (PWC) engines. These engines have been carefully designed and developed to operate efficiently without the need for special adjustments.
  - Check, clean and flush your engine well away from shorelines.
  - Check and add engine lubricating oil only in designated areas.
  - Do not wash engine parts on or near the Lake-use proper containers and disposal techniques.
  - Refuel personal watercraft (PWC) and boats away from the Lake whenever possible or use our full prevention devices.
  - Have gas and oil leaks repaired immediately upon detection.
  - Use bilge pillows and engine pads to absorb oils and fuels and make sure that these materials are disposed of appropriately.
  - Unless there is an emergency, avoid pump out of bilge except in designated areas.
  - Use proper disposal methods for contaminated bilge water.